



# CALIFORNIA GARDEN

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How to Grow the Iris  
Plant Intelligence  
August Flower and Vegetable Gardens  
Garden Individuality  
The Rose—The Dahlia—The Lath House

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# The California Garden

*Published Monthly by the San Diego Floral Association  
One Dollar per Year, Ten Cents per Copy*

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POINT LOMA, CALIFORNIA, AUGUST, 1914

No. 2

A used-to-be subscriber to California Garden, said, "I don't take the magazine any more, because it reached me in the middle of the month with its usefulness half gone thereby."

Brethren, let us argue together. Several reasons contribute to the admittedly very unusual proceeding of issuing a magazine in the middle of the month the name of which it bears. There would be nothing singular if it preceded its date a couple of weeks. Some of these reasons if stated would involve confessions we don't intend to make, unless threatened with contempt of court proceedings, but although these were instrumental in the inception of the practice, it has been purposely maintained in so far, that the date of issuance is governed by the time of the Floral Association monthly meeting; the aim being to secure the greatest effectiveness as a notice of that meeting. This explanation must not be considered an apology; we don't apologize, we always do the best we can at the moment, and an apology would discredit this, but we do desire to have our subscribers understand us as far as possible. We want to help them, and sit up nights frequently trying to do so. Further, no harm will result from acting on advice given in the Garden when you receive your copy, whatever the day of the month, and this we guarantee under the Employer's Liability act, which seems inclusive enough for the purpose.

Now that is written, we won't withdraw it, but we are nervous as we remember the case of one who owned an automobile in this locality. This man hired another to drive the auto, and the one hired gave yet another a lift on the road. Now this third lost his balance, perhaps he never had much, and fell out of the machine sustaining bodily injury. Whereupon he sued the owner and got fifteen hundred dollars damages. Please take notice and don't ask to ride in our machine unless you are insured for your full value—you to do the assessing.

The Exposition year of 1915 is drawing nearer. Today it is a few months ahead, tomorrow it will be but days, and with all our preparations we seem to have overlooked or rather not ever to have thought of a simple scheme for decoration that would insist upon the visitors attention. It is a recognized fact that much repetition secures general notice—it is an axiom in advertising. Why has not San Diego adopted one flower as its badge for 1915? This flower should be cheap, easily raised from seed, a long bloomer, and striking in color. The seed should be distributed free to every one with a garden, and each should be urged to grow some in a conspicuous part of their ground. The Parks should have patches of it everywhere. All public buildings should show it, and vacant lots all around over the city should be planted with it. Subscribers to the Garden and others are invited to send us their suggestions, and perhaps something filling all requirements may be found; and added to the specifications should be the proviso that this flower be distinctly western, San Diegan if possible, so that it will not incite the remark, "We grow that back in old Kentucky."

The daily press has it that Councilman Schmidt has developed a good sized floral enthusiasm and advocates the wearing of a flower by everybody now and always; further, that booths should be established on our streets for free distribution of flowers during 1915. We welcome this enthusiasm and hope it may be the forerunner of a reasonable appropriation for street planting work. We are given to understand that this is for which it waits, and also that money will be officially provided to buy these flowers for free distribution. We have no files at hand for reference, but feel pretty sure of our ground when we state that to the best of our belief no member of the City Council or the Mayor is a member of the San Diego Floral Association. It would be joyful to find ourselves in the wrong in this matter.

# The Iris—How to Grow Them

Dean Iris Gardens, Moneta, California

Replying to your inquiry as to whether "The Iris" require special treatment in the growing and care of them, to make them bloom properly, we presume you refer more particularly to the so-called "Germanica" type, and we make some suggestions regarding their cultivation first, they being also the best known.

They will grow and bloom quite well with no care whatever, but will not attain to the greatest perfection, any more than a child will, that is not properly cared for. We received a letter this week from a grower in the middlewest, where the summers are hot and dry, and he says: "The Iris will do in your state anywhere without irrigation with good cultivation." Yes, as well probably as they do there, where they have Iris for eight or ten weeks in the year, but if we can have them nearly all the year, as we do roses and some other flowers, why not give them the extra care to secure the best results.

In the first place do not plant too deep—barely cover the top of the rhizome with the soil. In order to secure good drainage, it is better if it can be arranged to have them planted so the water will not come in contact with the rhizome, at least not for any length of time, as the bulb will not thrive if submerged, as those of some of the other species will do. The amount of water depends upon location, whether near trees or larger plants that take up a good deal of moisture, and whether in shade or full sun. While they should be given a good deal of water during the growing and blooming period, yet it is possible to give them too much, particularly in some soil, thus causing the rhizomes to become weak from over forcing, and therefore not able to produce flowering stems.

Fertilizing also helps very materially, but care has to be used. If stable or chicken yard fertilizer is used, it is best to use it in liquid form, using care not to make it too strong. We have found wood ashes good to use on our soil, sprinkling it over the ground just before watering.

In regard to location, in our climate we consider partial shade the best, preferably in a location where they get morning and

afternoon sun or both. We prefer full sun however, to too dense shade.

We believe they bloom better if allowed a rest of at least a few weeks, although it is not necessary, provided they have proper drainage.

The foliage should be removed as it becomes unsightly and separates easily from the rhizome, but the leaves should not be cut back, except when re-planting. They bloom better if not allowed to grow too long without dividing, and when re-planting, if to be planted on the same ground as before, work in some good fine thoroughly decayed stable manure or commercial fertilizer, and plant the strongest rhizomes. Do not break off the side growths, unless you are very anxious to increase your stock, but leave as many eyes as you can, and to have a good display the following season, plant them quite closely.

Most of the Apogon or Beardless species, to attain the greatest perfection, require more moisture than the above. Sibirica, Pseudo-acorus, Hexagona, Japanese and some others, require a rich soil, and do best when flooded, being kept pretty wet during the blooming period, and should not dry out for a great length of time. Most of the species do better if allowed a short season of rest. Our native Irises in the eastern states that grow on the margins of streams, we know do not get as much moisture during the late summer, as the water becomes quite low at that season of the year.

The bulbous Irises, after growth begins in Autumn, should be kept watered sufficiently to keep them in a good growing condition, and also for a time after through blooming, then it is better to let the bulbs ripen by with-holding moisture until time for growth to start the next season. The English Irises are an exception, and require a great deal of moisture, and should be allowed but a short season of rest.

The Oncocyclus and Regelia require treatment similar to the bulbous, and like the bulbous seem to do better with some lime in the soil.

*Notice of August Meeting, page 14.*

# California Gardens in August

## The Flower Garden

Mary Matthews

Two clauses in a set of resolutions sent out by a Floral Society of the east, might well be used by us in Southern California. First, plant chiefly long-lived native material. Second, restore and preserve the local color instead of destroying every shrub and hardy plant within miles of us. The last clause brings us to the much discussed subject of hardy plants.

So many of our native plants could be introduced into the hardy garden successfully and give just that touch of the individuality as regards climate and locality that is needed to make them different from all others. Our flora is so varied that we have with us many things that in other climes are grown as choicest garden plants. The best hardy border is not an expensive luxury. Its chief members may be the hardy plants of the neighborhood that, through intelligent cultivation, have been given the best chances for development. One of the best uses for the hardy border is to make a repository for all you may bring in with you from walks and drives through the adjoining country. The first and most important requisite is good soil, dug to a generous depth. The greatest number of plants require a compost loose and friable; one that will not dry out readily during the warm weather, and the soil should be made rich in the beginning. You cannot starve the plants and expect a good crop of flowers. Begin with the old favorites, and remember some of the annuals of the east are perennials with us. *Calendulas*, *scabiosa*, *eschscholtzia* (California poppy), *helianthus* (sun flowers), etc. *Campanulas* mostly prove biennial, but are well worth the trouble of seed planting each season. As soon as seeds are ripe, put in a flat or reserve bed and transplant during the winter or early spring. *Delphiniums*, native and introduced, are good, though I have never seen our own *delphinium cardinale* as gorgeous in the garden as it is on the mountainside. Sometimes I think it is just that setting that is needed; the flowers singly are just as fine.

*Penstemon heterophyllus* and *azureus* are as handsome as many of the garden varieties introduced. *Penstemon Hartwigii*, pure white and large flowered, comes to us from Colorado. California has over twenty varieties of *penstemon*, and I am inclined to think with us they might well take the place of the perennial *phlox* in our hardy gardens, as the latter is very apt to die out unless in favored localities, away from the salt air. *Pyrethums* ought to do well, though I remember but one good planting of them. The old fever-few is ubiquitous.

*Gaillardias* are fine now in their various colors. *Shasta* daisies are always favorites, and the old style *Chrysanthemum maximum*, the moon penny daisy, is just as effective in the hardy garden. *Coreopsis lanceolata*, var. *golden wave*, blooms early and freely, giving hundreds of flowers for cutting. Sweet *allysum* and *mignonette* fill in all vacant spots. *Lobelia splendens*, which takes the place of *cardinalis* of the eastern brooksides, will grow in any low moist spot along with your beardless iris, *monardias* (scarlet bee balm) *hedychiums*, etc.

For bizarre and striking effects plant *echinops ruthenicus* (globe thistle), and *eryngium* (sea holly), these are in silvery blue and gray effects; also *carthamus tinctorum* (the saffron thistle). Along with these can be put our native *salvia carduacea*, thistle sage. Any or all of these can be grown from seed now or by division of the clumps later on.

The early spring bulbs must not be omitted from the border; many *narcissus* are hardy and permanent. *Sparaxis*, *ixias*, *alliums*, *freesias*, *oxalis* and others, all appear at the appointed time, then disappear till the next season, apparently not affected by the summer's drouth and irrigations. The iris *pavonia* (peacock Iris), does well and increases rapidly. Clumps of *amaryllis belladonna*, *agapanthus*, or a generous planting of *montbretias* all prolong the season's bloom. *Gysophyllias*, annual and perennial, sweet fennel, *carota*, etc., serve to blend all into harmony.

For an edging many low growing things can be planted. A favorite is the old clove

pink, both double and single. It is a rank heresy, I know, but I greatly prefer them to the carnation of the present day. Nor must sweet smelling things be forgotten, such as rose geraniums or artemisia (southern-wood). One of the best lacti-flora with its sweet foliage and panicles of milky white blooms, low growing heliotropes, diosma (breath of Heaven), a bush of lavender or rosemary, or a little bit of sweet marjoram, all remind us of the old oriental proverb "to grow flowers is a common thing; 'tis God alone can give them fragrance."

## Vegetable Garden

George P. Hall

August and May present the longest planting tables, and of the two months August is the most important, because you are preparing for the growth of the garden in the long night period, the incident that chiefly distinguishes it from the days of June, when there is fifteen hours of sun. The extension of this period warms up the soil so thoroughly that in August it is in condition to force the germination of seed to its earliest development.

So, in this second spring, that must be supplied with abundant irrigation, it is the important time for planting potatoes. Be sure and select good seed, and either put the tubers in foramil or corrosive sublimate preparation to destroy any semblance of scab. Both peas and potatoes dote on lime, as well as the other three requisites, nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash. Plant bush beans and early corn, like Bantam and Heath's Early, endive, kale, iceberg lettuce, summer squash, oxheart carrots, half long parsnips. Be sure and do not plant any of the long white carrots. Davis Perfect cucumbers, Sunrise and Early tomatoes, also from cuttings from plants you are now growing and trimming off the laterals so as to secure larger fruit, New York Improved egg plant and Chinese Giant peppers for winter crop. Plant everything you want to. Some of it will come through and give you plenty for holidays. It is the month to put in your sweet peas for Christmas blooming. It is a good month in which to sow hardy perennials that will bloom next year, cinerarias, calceolarias pansies and primulas, also a good month to sow eucalyptus and cypress for hedges.

If you desire a fine winter crop of roses, water only enough to keep the rose bushes

from starting fresh growth, and later bring on the new wood which produces the roses. Burbank's Rural Blush potatoes are fine, and cabbage, cauliflower and celery are sown this month, and the market garden men are sowing Yorkshire Hero peas and others like Strategem and Telephone.

In sowing seeds in August one requisite is very essential, that of having the soil in such order, so composed that it will not bake. If it is soil that is inclined that way, argue with it. Add sand and well rotted manure and change its opinion of itself. No earthly use to sow minute seeds and cover them up in lumpy hard soil. If the soil is not right, make it so. The Creator is perfectly willing you should improve the soil to suit your desires.

This is the month that is the best for making your strawberry bed, and here the same requirements are essential, moist loamy soil, arranged so you can irrigate easily with a slow soaking stream, and never let the bed dry down farther than you can reach moisture with a few strokes of your penknife. Strawberries are shallow rooted generally, though they are teaching them to have longer roots, but Brandywine, Excelsior and Jessie are shallow feeders, hence another consideration is essential, do not put your fertilizer in too deep or the roots never reach it. It is well to use nitrate of soda in all garden operations, as it is an immediate stimulant and only does its service here and now when you want it. If you get it in form that looks like coarse salt and immediately dissolves in water, the plants all know when it is there. Strawberries planted now and well cared for, will give fruit in December, and then go on through the season, if you keep off the runners. If you want runners, then keep off the blossoms and get the runners to plant more beds.

In planting seeds you have to reckon with the sun, who is rather cranky this year, and will blaze out and frighten the young plants to death if you do not provide partial shade when the babies are just trying to grow. Cloth, lath racks you can move, or any device you can construct to keep them partly shaded, will be right. Pansies, violets and cinerarias like the north side, and peas will do better if you can give them the shade from the west in the afternoon. Keep the surface in a dust mulch after irrigating, so the water goes in, rather than just over the surface.

# The Rudiments of Gardening

Official Bulletin No. 12, Issued under Direction of Prof. H. J. Baldwin, County Superintendent of Schools  
Teachers will use contents of these Bulletins for their regular classwork in Agriculture

## Insects and Other Pests

By **GEORGE P. HALL**

*President Little Landers Colony, San Ysidro, Cal.*

Among the most beneficial insects are the Rhizobias, a family of black lady birds brought from Africa and Hawaii. They feed on the larva—young scale, before they get their shells on—and destroy millions, but they do not increase as fast as the scale, and it sometimes happens they cannot keep up with the work of devouring them, for each black pod contains from one to three thousand young scale.

**Q.** Is there any insect that is capable of outnumbering the Lecanium oleo—or black scale?

**Ans.**—Yes; the *Scutellesta cyena* attacks the scale in a different way from the rhizobias, which only feed on the larva. The *Cyena* does not feed on the larva, but drills a hole into the black shell which contains these many hundreds of eggs and lays its eggs inside, and when its young are hatched, they devour the hundreds of eggs, and thus take a shorter cut than the rhizobia. If you are in an orchards and discover black shells perforated, you may know it is the work of the *cyena*, and if you take home some of the twigs thus perforated you will be likely to get some of these helpers in your orchard. Besides the black, there are white fluted or cottony cushion scale, purple scale—*Mytalapsis citricola*—the *Hesperidium* or soft orange scale, which also lives on our deciduous trees, especially apricots and peaches.

**Q.** If we cannot procure the beneficial insects to destroy the injurious one, is there any other way of disposing of them?

**Ans.**—Yes; by spraying the trees with some liquid like kerosene emulsion, lye washes and fumigation with hydrocyanic gas. The latter is accomplished by covering the tree in the night time with a tent and dropping cyanide into dilute acid, and the deadly fumes destroy all insect life. The sprays shrivel up the small scale by contact, and are applied with power sprayers that put the liquid on with force, sometimes

used hot, which destroys the scale, especially the young scale which have not yet commenced to put on their armor.

**Q.** How can earth worms and grubs be destroyed?

**Ans.**—By plowing or spading in fresh lime, or as in the case of “woolly aphis” at the roots of trees—use bisulphide of carbon, an inflammable liquid, clear like water, but very volatile, and if a hole is made in the soil and the liquid, to the amount of several spoonfuls is poured in and quickly covered with wet soil, the volatile gas will diffuse through the soil and kill all insect life. This liquid should be used very cautiously, as it will explode like gasoline if near a blaze.

**Q.** Has bisulphide of carbon any other use?

**Ans.**—Yes; it is used in destroying weevil in peas and beans. If a small portion be put in a tight covered can containing seeds that are being destroyed by weevil, it will permeate the seed and kill the “jumper.” Large warehouses are sometimes closed when full of potatoes, and the gas is effective in killing worms that sometimes breed after they have stored the crop.

**Q.** Is there any other way of successfully destroying worms and grubs in the soil?

**Ans.**—Yes; let the land lie “fallow,” that is, let it go by for a season, raise no crop on it, plow and turn it up to the sun and there is nothing in the soil for them to feed on.

**Q.** Are there any other dangers to growing plants?

**Ans.**—Many plants wither and die from “constriction” or baking of the soil. If you tie a piece of cord tightly around your finger you stop the circulation of the blood, and if not relieved it would eventually mean the loss of the finger. Just so, baked, hard soil closes tight around the tender stem of the plant and cuts off circulation of the sap. Stirring and cultivating the soil is as essential as watering and fertilizing. Each process is essential in making plants grow.

# Plant Intelligence

C. W. Leadbetter

It is only within the last few years, since biology has been studied from the biological side, that we have awakened to understand what wonderful things plants really are—that we have made an effective study of their consciousness, their habits and their tendencies.

Nothing can be more marked than their likes and dislikes; indeed it is hardly an exaggeration to say that there is scarcely a virtue or a vice known to mankind which has not its counterpart among them.

There was a time when flowers were regarded as created for the pleasure of man, but we have now realized that the life en-soul-ing to plant adapts all its parts most wonderfully to the work which they have to do for the good of the organism as a whole. A plant or a tree may be said to be a colony of vegetable organisms. From the point of view of the plant, the flower, which seems to us the culmination and goal of the whole, is really an aborted and degraded leaf, though it also has its function to perform. We may say that the leaves act as accumulators of energy, for they gather carbon and liberate oxygen. The flowers, on the otherhand, expend energy, for they require oxygen and liberate carbon dioxide. The leaves store up food materials in the tubers and the stem, while the flowers draw upon this account, never selfishly, be it understood, but always in the interest of the plant as a whole and in the furtherance of its desire to found a family. They slowly and steadily store up energy and then spend it all comparatively rapidly. The mouths of the leaves are on the under surfaces and they are so tiny that a square inch of the ordinary lilac-leaf contains a quarter of a million of them. Forty-five million tons of carbon dioxide is thrown into the air daily by men and animals, and yet the whole of this is absorbed by those tiny mouths—or rather the carbon is extracted from it.

The adaptability of plants is wonderful. All climbing plants for example have *acquired* the power of climbing in order to reach the sunlight, and have developed whatever organs are necessary for this purpose—hooks or tendrils or extra roots, or some times only the power of twining.

Varieties of flowers develop in order to attract different kinds of insects and many of the adaptations are wonderfully ingenious. Some flowers, for example, carefully provide a lip for the insect to alight upon, and arrange that the vibration, which he communicates to the flower in doing so, shall shake down pollen upon his back. Orchids cement their pollen, so that their insect messenger may not lose it fruitlessly by the way. The asclepiads defend themselves against the waste of their valuable material by catching and strangling flies which do not fertilize. Again, vegetable ingenuity is shown in the development of fruit in order to suit the various tastes and sizes of birds. The fruit remains acid and undesirable until the germ or stone within is fully developed and ready to be carried away to a distance. Then the fruit becomes sweet, the bird eats it, but is unable to digest the hard stone or pit and drops it somewhere at a distance from the parent plant, so that it has a better opportunity to grow.

Some plants develop thorns in order to prevent themselves being eaten by mammals. Others, on the contrary, depend upon mammals for the conveyance of their ripe seeds to a distance, as does the burdock or goose grass, which develop little hooks to cling to the coats of animals which pass by them. It may be remembered that where foreign wool was imported into Gloucestershire, it was found that plants from the cape and South America began to make their appearance in the neighborhood where the wool was combed. Various plants trust to the wind for the dissemination of their seeds, as do the thistle, the cotton plant and the lime. The cocoanut palm trusts to the tides or rivers to carry away its fruit, and therefore grows by perforce on the very edge of the ocean.

Another way in which the ingenuity of plants is displayed is in the methods which they adopt for their defence. Some develop bloom upon their fruit in order to shield it from the effects of rain or dew. Others produce poisonous secretions to save themselves from marauding insects. Others grow wooly hairs for this purpose as the mullin, while some endeavor to protect

themselves from being eaten by developing spikes or thorns, as in many familiar plants, or by impregnating themselves with silica, as do the horsetails. Many more instances of their curious cleverness might easily be given, but they may be found in the later books on botany.

## The Lath House

In considering the lath house question, it must always be borne in mind that this is a new thing, that its abuse is probably up to the present more in evidence than its use, and that the lath house as it appears when an adjunct to a nursery is not what we want it to be in a private capacity, any more than a nursery itself is a model for a private garden.

The California Garden has discussed at some length the desirability of something less offensive if not actually artistic in construction than the usual model of today, and would supplement that now by expressing a hope that a reaction, when it sets in, as it probably will, will not go as far in the opposite direction as to reach the very ornate. The mind is staggered in contemplating the horrible possibilities in a lath house treated ornately. Even a dome-shaped roof is only permissible under special circumstances and where great space is covered. This, for one reason, because a certain proximity to the growths of the lath roof seems necessary for best effects.

Passing that phase it is intended to take up the ground plan, or a few details thereof. A flat surface is only effective where growths themselves will reach height, and such things as Rex or tuberous begonias are half wasted on the ground. This is apparent by watching any visitor inspecting such in this position. If at all interested such an one will invariably stoop to get a closer view. Benches are not the thing, but beds could rise to their centers in a series of narrow terraces. These could be effectively built of chunks of hardpan. The difference in height or the rise would be governed by circumstances, but a foot would be a good mean.

These terraces for ferns and begonias should be filled with leaf mold, and slope inwards rather than out, in order to make irrigation easier and more thorough. An admixture of well-rotted cow manure would be good, if it be really old and past the

heating stage, otherwise it will be fatal.

Where such a treatment has to be against a wall, a buttress of redwood could be built and the hardpan stacked in front of it. This would provide admirable pockets for ferns, and a bed of this description could be kept in perfect condition with an overhead sprinkler. The overhead sprinkling is not good for the begonias, especially the tuberous in flower. When a more formal style is desired, the hollow tile or even drain pipe would be useful, but in such use drainage must be properly looked after. These are merely suggestions, and any degree of imagination should supply countless variations.

Rumor has it that Mr. Campbell of Ocean Beach, he of the wonderful garden, has acquired a block of delightfully uneven ground near the top of the hill, and the California Garden is hoping to see that lath house it has dreamed about, which runs down and over on each side of a path descending in terraces. Also it is said that there is at this location a northern slope to be fitted with permanent, but concealed sprinklers, and planted with ferns and azaleas and all those moisture-loving things, so that in the evening of a dusty hot day, the genius thereof can walk in its coolness, see the raindrops on the leaves, and scent the moist earth and all those good smells that go with this kind of thing. A bringing of the top of Palomar to one's back door.

There are amazing possibilities in the rough places of Point Loma or elsewhere. God constructed plots for a wonderful planting where the presence of a mule and a scraper is profanation, a sin against the Holy Ghost.

Look out for the days of long sunshine. If they take you by surprise, and catch you from home, your lath house will suffer.

## The Rose

Various questions propounded during the last month show that the mind of the rose grower hereabouts will not relinquish the idea that his bushes should furnish blooms at least every day the sun shines.

There seems to be only the one chance for the poor rose to get a vacation, and that through the diverting of the attention of the grower to other things for a season, and to that intent California Garden has used all its superlatives on Dahlias, etc., but it seems no good.

Last week a man stood in front of a

glorious bed of dahlias, colorful, luxuriant, various, and he said, gazing right in the eye of a marvelous "Doazen" eight inches across, "Do you think, adobe would be good for my roses?" and then he proceeded to tell of the care he expended and the fertilizer he had used in vain to make his roses do mid-summer stunts, ending by saying that he had just ordered a load of adobe to change the diet a little. Concealing some chagrin, the dahlia grower replied, with a knowledge of the light character of the soil to be treated, "It is an old maxim among rosarians that roses like a warm head and cold feet, so that probably the adobe may benefit if it be put well down under the sandy soil, where the sun will not bake it, but its right application would be at least two feet below the surface, before planting at all."

There is very little question but that a right preparation of a rosebed would be true economy, especially if on a small scale, and now is the time to do such a thing, as in any such deep disturbance of the soil a fairly long term for settling should be given before planting. In all gardening operations the lesson must be learned to wait for natural processes.

Taking the general character of soil in this vicinity, San Diego, it will be found that the top soil suitable as a garden medium is limited in depth between eight inches and two feet; much the greater part of it being in the neighborhood of one foot. This top soil should be dug out and put to one side. Then will follow a kind of hardpan or sand rock in various stages; this should be excavated for another two feet and used for walks or any where that things are not expected to grow. In refilling start with one foot of adobe or clay mixed with one-quarter of its bulk of fine gravel or coarse sand, to be put in dry or nearly so. Then a foot of half well-rotted manure and half good loam, thoroughly mixed and broken up. The top soil then to be replaced, if it be good enough and of a character that will work well under constant irrigation and cultivation with our maximum of sunshine. When all is done a thorough saturation should be applied and the top worked when dry enough to be followed by a similar treatment twice more at intervals of three weeks. This should give a splendid planting condition from November on.

"What a lot of trouble," folks will say.

We get roses in our garden just by sticking them in, in any old way. This is unfortunately true. Unfortunately, because the beneficence of this glorious climate makes sad drones of us in our gardens.

However, this magazine must stand for not merely roses, but good roses, and the need of its preachments, even abuse, will stay apparent so long as the easterner can say, "Oh yes—you have lots of roses even in winter, but they are not like our eastern blooms."

But supposing a more sympathetic attitude is taken towards the one who sighs for midsummer roses. Here is a ray of hope for him. Three years experience with standard or tree roses; that is, bushes budded up on the stalk of the stock instead of by the root, so that a bare stem or trunk of from eighteen inches to three feet is obtained, has convinced the writer of this that in this locality the standard type is the right one for summer blooms. As this is written (end of July), he has Joseph Hills and General MacArthurs with three-foot stems topped with glorious buds. Considering the reasons, it has seemed that the solution is to be found in the rose's objection to dry heat. The standard form gets all the tender growth well away from the hot ground allowing a circulation of air below, as elsewhere. All the standards tried have been on the dogrose or wild briar and height of budding has been from eighteen inches to two feet. A sharp lookout must be kept for suckers whose persistence is worthy of better appreciation.

If it is desired to have a rose crop in the late fall, bushes must be rested for August and September by withholding water.

Reports come in that the lily pond on the Murray place at the foot of Grossmont, is very well worth a visit.

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## EXOTIC NURSERIES

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# The Dahlia

A. D. Robinson

Since the dahlia article of last month, the peony flowered variety called "Geisha" has bloomed, and it is worthy of all the encomiums of the catalogue description which make it a poem in scarlet and gold. It is more of a barbaric battle standard, being startling almost in its splendor, and it is the right colors emphatically for the year of 1915 in San Diego. A bed of a hundred plants properly arranged on a slope so that every plant would make its due effect would be the equal almost of—well, let us say, a straw hat brigade.

Never in my experience of twelve years in San Diego has there been so favorable a summer for dahlias. The little veil of mist that has modified the sun's scorch yet allowed its warmth, has been ideal, and the very early season has also helped. In August many plants will have passed their best and if they are cut right off at the base, will sprout again and yield a fall crop of bloom. To get the best effect of this treatment, the ground should be well worked after cutting off, and the same care given as in the spring—that is, fertilising, watering, etc. Last year, all the writer's exhibits made at the fall show were from a second crop of this kind. Where beds are still blooming, and yet the second crop is desired, half the plants can be cut back at a time or even in less proportion.

It is perfectly evident that San Diego is going to have the dahlia fever. The rash that precedes, so to speak, was apparent at the last Floral Association meeting, and as I am in a sense guilty of the inoculation I feel the necessity of uttering a note of warning.

The dahlia should replace nothing; it has its place, a big place, but that is all. Our gardening operations are a succession of frantic devotion to the latest fad and consequent neglect of old loves. Our agricultural and horticultural activities follow a like bent, and so we let in the exploiter of the succeeding new wonder workers that need not be particularized, as we have most of us been bitten.

Another thing, the dahlia to do its best insists on good and intelligent feeding and care. Its growth is as rapid and luxuriant as corn, and "corn land" is synonymous

with the best there is. Note how little corn is raised in our vicinity and you will realize that the dahlia demands of you more than a hole in your garden and a fitful watering. If you are undeterred by these warnings and mean to have some of them next year, go somewhere and see them growing and there select your varieties. Looking at my own garden, I have felt that next year I must have small clumps, say half a dozen plants of one kind to themselves, dotted in shrubbery and around with an eye to color effect. Though I carefully marked every tuber last year as to color, habit, etc., or thought I did, I have buried some of my best with more vigorous growing kinds, and utterly neglected to utilize the specimen making merit of others. Already I am arranging my dahlias for 1915, that is in my mind, but I know that to put this into effective use I must diagram it on paper. There is so much "I" in this latter part because it is hoped that readers may be willing to do what the writer admits he has to. The best possibilities of the dahlia cannot be alone along the lines of a bizarre color conglomeration.

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Soledad Terrace is producing daily a truck load of fresh vegetables and some cut flowers for San Diego. Next year it will be a truck load of flowers (we hope). Better visit the place in your auto and see for yourself.

---

A night-blooming cactus at Third and Robinson has attracted considerable attention. The single bloom only lasts for one night, but the blooms are still coming on.

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Won't you get one more subscriber for California Garden? You can do it if you wish to make it more powerful for beauty and good in your city.

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Several of the fire houses have well-kept plants and flowers around them, indicating that the men take pleasure in thus passing their leisure time.

# Pickings and Peckings

By THE EARLY BIRD

I am as excited as I dare be in my present moulting condition, and it will probably lower my blood pressure if I talk about the cause.

You know I roost on Point Loma most of the time, and I have watched Ocean Beach develop in disgusting straight lines and squares in spite of its eminent fitness for contour treatment, and finally, last fall, a street was graded straight down the hill along a fence at its southern margin, and I prayed for the delightful tract south of that, still beautifully uneven and covered with wild growth.

Today the Mexican and the mule are in that tract but not as the vandal destroyers. The brush is being thinned, not obliterated, and lovely contour roads are being graded. Rumor has it that it is to be divided into villa lots. Now I am praying that the owner will dare to place every purchaser under obligations to submit all house and garden plans to a competent expert, so that the placing of every house and making of each improvement will contribute to the whole design.

This is the scheme of nature, the inter-reliance of all parts on the whole. And what a chance is here. Further, on this same tract, to the right of the boulevard, or near there, is where a well bored for oil is reported to have struck a good supply of excellent fresh water at no very great depth. Perhaps an individual water supply can be developed with a reservoir treated as a natural lake as an added attraction.

But whatever else may evolve, a boulevard should run along the bluff by the shore. Ocean Beach will never come into its own till it owns the bluff next to the sea the entire length and builds a boulevard that all can travel. Some day this boulevard must encircle Point Loma. It is destiny.

The wild shrubbery of Point Loma is staying unusually green and fresh this year and the buckwheat has been a joy. These growths must live largely on absorption of moisture from the air, for they are not of the character of the desert growths that store water in their abnor-

mally distended roots and limbs. A study of cultivated things with a view to determine their ability in this direction, should prove very valuable in making up a planting list. There are quite a number of plants that do not flower till the ground, far below their roots, is as dry as dust. With these as a basis to work upon, our plant wizards should be able to give us flowers for our gardens that would be independent of artificially supplied water. Perhaps a reader of this might suggest spineless cactus, but being an early bird I forestall him. I have not yet gotten the thorn from a spineless cactus out of my near foot.

## "Red" Sunflowers

At the last Floral Association meeting Dr. Mead sent a bloom of the Sutton Red Sunflower and appended was a note, "Catalogue description very much exaggerated." The bloom in question was an exceedingly poor one in form, being mostly centre with a few apologetic petals of a pale yellow discolored at their base with a dirty brown, and certainly undeserving of the glowing endorsement and color plate in the Sutton Catalogue. However, Miss Matthews has grown some blooms from seed obtained from Peter Henderson and her flowers have been entitled to the name of a giant gaillardia.

The instructions sent out with seed were that all plants lacking a black cast of stem and leaf should be rejected at once, as the type is not very staple. There are more of these plants yet to bloom and it is hoped that a more favorable report can be rendered, but at present writing, the new Red Sunflower is hardly worthy to stand beside its sun-like relative the yellow double.

Mrs. Thos. Kneale is at the head of the membership committee, but every member should consider himself or herself on that committee. Ask your neighbor or friend to either or both become a member and subscribe for California Garden.

## The California Garden

Alfred D. Robinson, Editor  
G. T. Keene, Manager

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY

### The San Diego Floral Association

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## August Meeting

"Bulbs" will be the subject for discussion at the August meeting of the Floral Association to be held Tuesday evening, the 18th, at the home of Miss Laura Schiller, 115 Redwood, corner of First. Take No. 3 or 5 Mission Hills cars to First and Spruce. Mr. Moulie, an old member of the Association, but a new-comer in San Diego, will have something interesting to say.

## September Meeting

Tuesday evening, September 15, the Association will be entertained at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. West, 2015 Ft. Stockton Drive, Mission Hills.

Howard & Smith, Los Angeles nurserymen, old friends of California Garden, have expressed the desire to have a page ad in this magazine for a year, beginning next month.

## July Meeting

Perennials furnished the chief topic for discussion when the Floral Association met on the 21st with Mrs. H. P. Davison, though other lines of thought were touched upon, ranging from the mysteries of plant life to the use of fertilizers.

President Robinson, in his "maiden speech" as the incoming president, tried to impress upon the members the need of tak-

ing the work of the Floral Association more seriously. He said in part:

"We are dealing with the mysteries of nature. There is real life in the flower, and many believe it to be much the same as in the human being, capable of responding to admiration and kindly treatment.

"In our work in the Floral Association, we have a definite work to perform. Just having a good time is not sufficient.

"It isn't sufficient that we have a few show places throughout the city; such places demonstrate the possibilities, but if we are to have a beautiful city, the great majority of the lots must be developed.

"The trouble is that the people don't care enough for a beautiful city to get in and work for it. A garden can't be made by a little spasmodic effort. We must get in and dig, and keep digging. It is almost if not quite a crime to plant and neglect.

"We should interest those in San Diego who probably will never belong. In many places about the city you will find the true love of the flower is manifest in a vine or potted plant growing under adverse circumstances. All they need is encouragement and instruction to develop that inborn love of the beautiful.

"We should hold at least one extra meeting each month, using the school houses as a probable civic center to reach the parents as well as the children. Instruction could be given with plants, seeds and possibly cuttings, without cost to the home-keepers. In such an undertaking there will be a chance for all to work."

Miss K. O. Sessions lead the discussion on perennials, naming those most grown here. She defined the perennial as a plant that lives for two or more years, and may be increased by subdivision.

The perennial likes a good resting season, as afforded by the eastern winter. It is hard out here to keep them from working all the time and depleting their strength.

Among those which do well here are the larkspur, hollyhock, phlox, penstemons, gaillardias, lobelia, Transvaal daisy, California Poppy, scabiosa, etc.

Dr. Mead sent some blooms of his red sunflower, mentioned elsewhere, and Miss Sessions showed a sprig of the Montezuma cypress. Mr. Robinson brought some fine specimens of Lobelia Cardinalis, and also a tablefull of his Rosecroft seedling dahlias, as well as other named varieties.

The blooms were fair rivals to chrysan-

themums and demonstrated the wonderful development of the dahlia in the last few years. The colorings were wonderful in seemingly every shade of pink, yellow, red or white, and blendings of them all. One of the latest is a red and yellow dahlia, combining in one bloom the Spanish colors, adopted by our exposition.

Those present were favored with two pleasing soprano solos by Miss Georgiana Hopkins, playing her own accompaniment.

"Bulbs" was chosen as the subject for the August meeting to be held on the third Tuesday evening of the month, at the home of Miss Laura Schiller, First and Redwood streets. Take No. 3 or 5 car going north to First and Spruce.

## State Nurserymen's Convention

Readers of *The California Garden* will be pleased to learn that the fourth annual convention of the California Association of Nurserymen will be held October 15, 16 and 17 in the Convention hall of the Grant Hotel, this city. This body of active nurserymen, representing every section of the state, is now easily the strongest organization of its class in the country, embodying as it does fully 80 per cent. of the commercial output of economic and ornamental plants in this state—now the second state in the Union in the annual output of nursery products. Its objects and aims are to protect, foster and develop the commercial production and sale of plants and trees, aiming to advance the material and social sides of the nursery business; to show where wear and tear can be diminished, better conditions in the control of injurious insects and plants diseases brought about and intelligent, equitable and uniform quarantine legislation put in force; to secure better transportation facilities at less cost; to secure a more uniform and scientific nomenclature in the classification of flowering and ornamental plants; to (in so far as practicable) "test out" new introductions of fruits and fruits with a view to learning their value; to holding exhibitions of fruits, flowers and plants and all appliances pertinent to the nursery business; to facilitate and expedite the sale and exchange of nursery stock between its

members; to awaken a keener interest and broader intelligence in California's horticultural development, to the end that methods in public and private plantings will be along practical lines and the chances of failure reduced to a minimum; and, finally, to in every way strengthen the commercial production and sale of nursery stock.

Its conditions of membership are broad and elastic, including all interested in the commercial production and sale of nursery stock, landscape gardening, experiment station work, horticultural quarantine, editing and publishing horticultural literature, or directly interested in the uplift of rural life. The annual dues are \$5.00.

President D. W. Coolidge, Secretary H. W. Kruckeberg and Fred H. Howard, representing the Association, were in San Diego during the last week in July conferring with members of the Floral Society, the Exposition people, and other public bodies, in relation to this convention, particulars of which we hope to give in these columns in our September issue.

# I R I S



Our new Price List of Iris is now ready and will be mailed free upon request.

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"CASSANDRA"

We read in the Puddin'-head Wilson maxims: "Often a hen who has merely laid an egg cackles as if she had laid an asteroid."

The party we read it to laughed considerably so we took it and read it to *Cassandra*. The lady had just deposited her usual morning contribution in the nest and was modestly chortling over it. She stopped a minute, then said: "Did the man who wrote that ever lay an egg or an asteroid?" We had to confess we thought not. Whereupon she added: "Then what does he know about how much noise either process demands, and she walked off to her hubby and said something about "fool humans." Possibly she meant those who don't hasten to get our three-months-old chicks at \$15 per dozen, while they last.

ROSECROFT BARRED ROCK YARDS  
POINT LOMA, CALIFORNIA

## Out-Door Meeting at Rosecroft, Point Loma

By G. T. K.



The Floral Association was entertained at Rosecroft, Point Loma, the home of President and Mrs. A. D. Robinson, Tuesday afternoon, August 4, the first out-door meeting of the summer.

A boat load went over on the Point Loma Ferry to Roseville, and were met by autos, which conveyed them up the winding road to Rosecroft. Many others went over in their own machines.

The guests wandered over the ten acres of winding paths, cozy nooks, rose-covered arbors, spreading trees, lath-houses filled with ferns, glass-houses with their plant aristocracy, wonderful beds of dahlias, others of annuals and perennials, and down through little jungles which hinted of the tropics.

It was almost impossible to imagine the scene six years ago, when that self-same site was a stubble field. Thinking of what had been and what now is, it would seem that a miracle had been performed. Surely something unusual must have happened. It is not natural that such a transformation scene should take place in such a short time.

And yet we are assured that Rosecroft had originally about ten inches of soil that was none too good. The secret of success is no secret at all, when you consider the three words—fertilizer, water, work.

Tons and tons of fertilizer of various kinds have been added to the soil at the right time and in the right way, and it is still going in. Loads of leaf-mold have been brought down from beneath the big trees far up in the mountains, for use in potting. And as to the water, well the "high water mark" for a single month totalled above \$50.00.

Of course ten acres is a lot of ground to be devoted to flowers, principally, and when we consider the space covered, these figures need not frighten the home-loving folks, who want their one or two fifty-foot lots to bud and blossom but it does emphasize the fact that any ground must be fertilized, watered and cultivated.

Mr. Robinson is generally not considered a "workingman" but if there is any man in San Diego who works harder and at-

tends to more detail, besides being a general counsellor and bureau of information, I have yet to discover him. Every member of the Association and subscriber to the Garden feels a sort of proprietary right to the time and knowledge of the president and editor and he smilingly concedes the right.

By special request, Mr. C. J. Williams, a new association member, and myself were introduced to "Cassandra" Rosecroft's wonderful Barred Rock Pullet. She hadn't her party dress on, and had just performed her daily household duty of laying an egg almost as valuable as that of the goose of the nursery rhyme, because the eggs she deposits accompanied by pride-full cackling, are expected to produce the birds which are to capture the blue ribbons at some of the big Eastern poultry shows.

Taken altogether, Rosecroft is a most interesting place, which flower-lovers are permitted to wander through to their hearts' content, without asking permission, as it is not always convenient for Mr. or Mrs. Robinson to act as guide.

### Investigation Needed

Reading of the severity of the plagues of gipsy and brown-tailed moths in Eastern States, it would seem wise if some one were to study the life history and probable future development of the moth that provides the caterpillar that played such havoc with the oak foliage in our mountains this spring. Its work seems too similar to be passed by as just peculiar. Anyway, why don't these birds that are specified as so beneficial, eat some of these fat worms? It is pretty hard to get a fruit ripened, for the birds get up earlier than most folks, but the caterpillar crawls unmolested right by the punctured plum. The bird is assessed on the bugs found in his crop, but the plums don't show there.

The entertainment committee has arranged meetings for six months ahead; a piece of news which indicates an active committee.

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